

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2215
ANSWERED ON:18.03.2002
DEATHS DUE TO AIR AND WATER POLLUTION
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Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) the number of persons who died due to pollution particularly air and water in the country during the last three years and current year, State-wise;
- (b) whether the Government have chalked out any concrete action plan to prevent such deaths and for control of air and water pollution in the country; and
- (c) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T. R. BAALU)

- (a) There is no conclusive data available to confirm mortality attributable to pollution.
- (b) & (c) The steps taken by the Government to control the air and water pollution include the following: -
 - (i) A comprehensive Policy for Abatement of Pollution that lays stress on both the control and preventive aspects of pollution has been formulated.
 - (ii) Environmental Epidemiological Studies have been initiated in different parts of the country to assess the impact of pollution on human health and suggest mitigative measures.;
 - (iii) Effluent and emission standards for industries have been notified under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to check pollution.
 - (iv) Financial assistance is provided for the construction of Common Effluent Treatment Plants in small-scale industries.
 - (v) Emission standards for on-road vehicles and mass emission standards for new vehicles have been notified under the Motor Vehicles Act, 1988 and are enforced by Transport Departments of the State Governments including Delhi.
 - (vi) Unleaded petrol is supplied in the entire country from 1.2.2000 and diesel with 0.25% sulphur maximum content is supplied from 1.1.2000 in the entire country. Ultra low sulphur (0.05%) fuel (petrol and diesel) has also been introduced in major cities.
 - (vii) Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) is supplied for automobiles through a number of retail outlets in Delhi to cater to the CNG vehicles.
 - (viii) Benzene concentration in petrol has been reduced.
 - (ix) A network of 290 Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Stations and 507 Water Quality Monitoring Stations have been set up throughout the country.
 - (x) Steps have been taken to control of pollution from 17 categories of highly polluting industries
 - (xi) Industries are also required to install necessary pollution control equipments before commissioning of their plants.
 - (xii) Industries are required to take consent from the respective State Pollution Control Boards under the Air (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1981.